NOSTALGIA

Looking to the future as factories are opened and A10 is improved

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

Littleport in 1982

Midwife has delivered 2,001 babies – 1986

MIDWIFE Phyllis Baker started as a trainee at Mill Road in 1940.

Then the hospital mainly catered for geriatrics though there was a maternity ward which was full of pregnant evacuees. In 1958, she became a community midwife when a high percentage of deliveries were at home and mothers only went to hospital if there was something wrong. Mill Road is a very happy hospital and she is happy to have been associated with it for so long.

Now, staff are compiling a photographic album of all the 2,001 babies she has delivered during her career.

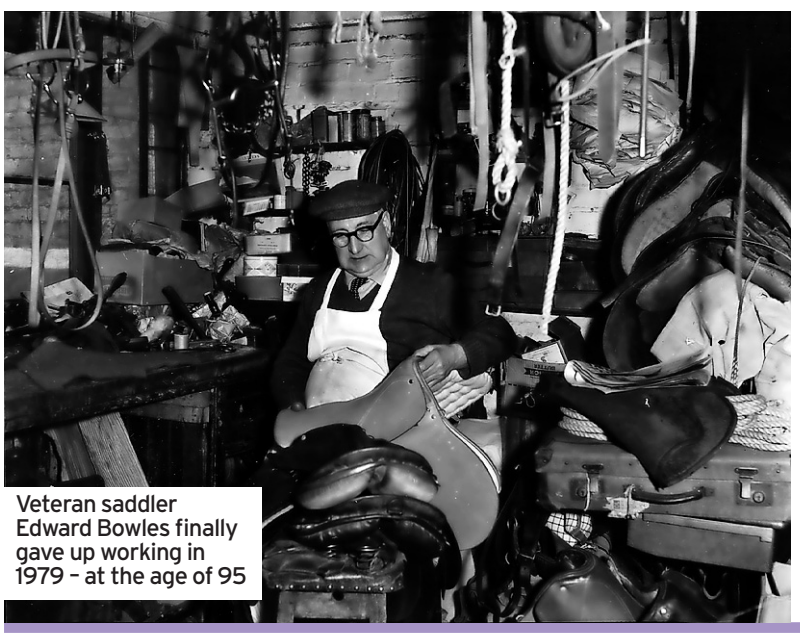
In 1940 the maternity ward was full of pregnant evacuees and most local people had their babies at home – only going into hospital if there was something wrong or her housing conditions were particularly bad.

She has made numerous friends: "I walked into Sainsbury's and somebody said 'Hello, Nurse Barker, this is one of yours', pointing to her child."

Littleport: The future of England – 1980

ENGLAND'S future lies with small industries in towns like Littleport which are free of labour relations problems, said Euro MP Sir Fred Catherwood when he officially opened four new factories in the town.

The ceremony fulfilled the dream of late Littleport councillor, Henry Crabb, who had campaigned for 30 years to revitalise the town's industry and now the road leading to the units built by the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas has been named after him.


Veteran saddler Edward Bowles finally gave up working in 1979 – at the age of 95

Saddler out of harness – 1979

VETERAN saddler Edward Bowles, aged 94, is out of harness after running his own business in Cambridge for 65 years.

His working life is probably one of the longest in the country.

He started in Glisson Road in 1913.

"I love my work but it's just getting a bit too much now", he said. "I thought it was time to stop because I'm 95 this month".

Mr Bowles carried on alone after his son Cecil, who followed in his footsteps, died.

New stretch of A10 through Milton –1963

A NEW stretch of the A10 Cambridge-Ely Road which has just opened will cut out a narrow road bend in Milton village.

The new length of road starts near the Milton War Memorial Junction and continues through to the northern side of the village.

It forms part of Cambridgeshire county council's road improvement scheme which is well under way.

Church roof stripped by lightning – 1958

LIGHTNING struck the century-old parish church at Reach.

The roof was stripped of tiles and there are three gaping holes letting daylight through.

Inside the church, masonry and roof timber litter the floor, many of the seats are broken and the stained glass windows blown out.

The chapel clock was struck and stopped at 7.34am, the pendulum was blown away and stuck in one of the rafters.

The vicar has pinned a notice saying: "Any persons entering this church do so at their own risk."

All lights in the village went out.

PoWs' coach catches fire – 1943

A MOTOR coach loaded with Italian prisoners of war caught fire opposite Lady Margaret Road.

Fortunately, a N.F.S. fire tender was passing at the time and quickly put out the fire. No one was injured.

Mayor opens new football stand – 1931

CAMBRIDGE Town Football Club's £4,000 stand was officially opened by the mayor as Milton Road took on again its usual Saturday afternoon activity.

In the centre of the pitch, The Railway Band played crowds into the new stand and the lily badges of the Town Supporters' Club were well to the fore.

The new dressing rooms were not in use and players used the old pavilion.

Cambridge won 4-3.

Man flourished a revolver – 1930

A CAMBRIDGE woman told the court she had locked the door of her home at 5 Guildhall Place but left the front window unfastened to allow her son to get in during the night.

She was awakened by her estranged common-law husband who had got in and was flourishing a revolver.

He said it was a dummy revolver loaded with blank cartridges and explained they had lived together for 14 years until she took up with a new man.

Keep up to date with the past

- Read Mike Petty's Cambridgeshire Scrapbook to search for other stories.
- Join Fenland History on Facebook to share your photos and information.
- Follow James Milner on Twitter to receive regular updates each weekend.
- Take a trip down Memory Lane to search for, share and colourise photos.
- Subscribe to Mike Petty's YouTube channel to listen to some of this talks.